However, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, there was less production during 1997-98 due to adverse weather situation. Production estimates are as follows:

(Million Tonnes)

	All India	ndhra Pradesh
1996-97	81.74	10.69
1997-98	82.53	8.51
1998-99	85.99	11.43

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Modern Food Industries

4. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to handover Modern Food Industries Limited in the hands of private sector company M/s Hindustan Lever Limited;

(b) if so, whether the value of the machines, equipments and land etc., was evaluated before handing over in the private hands;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have handed over the company at much lower rate than the expected one to HLL; and

(d) whether the interest of workers was taken into account before handing over the company and if so, the further reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The Government has disinvested 74% of its equity holding in Modern Food Industries (India) Limited to M/s Hindustan Lever Limited.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Agreement entered into with M/s Hindustan Lever Limited provides for protection of employees' interest. The transfer of management has been effected in atmosphere of cordiality.

Effect of Chemical Fertilizers

†5. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of ill-effects of uses of chemical fertilizers are coming to the force; if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to deal with them;

(b) what are the other fertilizers being used as an alternative to the chemical fertilizers in the country and the percentage of total cultivable land in which these fertilizers are being used; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to encourage the use of said fertilizer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The average consumption of fertilizer nutrients (NPK) in India is about 90 Kg/ha. The fertilizer consumption gives economic response and high yields at a much higher does of fertilizer nutrients. The nutrient consumption in Pakistan, in broadly identical situation is 113 Kg/ha., in Bangladesh 135 Kg/ha. and in Sri Lanka 160 Kg/ha. The consumption in developed countries is much higher being 375 Kg/ha in Japan, 542 Kg/ha in Netherlands and 379 Kg/ha in U.K. The fertilizer consumption in India, therefore, cannot be termed as excessive and as such the question of ill-effect does not arise.

The studies conducted by ICAR with the application of high rates of nitrogen (above 200 Kg/ha., year) in the light textured soils followed by heavy irrigation showed that there is nitrate pollution of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.